

## EC hopes for Aziz talks in Algeria

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni Miceli, testifying before a parliamentary committee Friday, expressed confidence that Iraq would agree to meet European Community (EC) "troika" consisting of the Luxembourg, Italian and Dutch foreign ministers in Algiers between Saturday and Monday. Luxembourg holds the current presidency of the EC which Italy succeeded on Dec. 31. The Netherlands take over in July. De Miceli said he had ordered his diplomats to make contact with the Algerians, the Yugoslavs and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Friday to find out what moves they thought might succeed in avoiding a conflict. Algeria has for weeks been trying to broker a deal over Kuwait. Yugoslavia is the current president of the Non-Aligned Movement and the PLO is also a key player as Iraq has linked the fate of Kuwait to a settlement of the Palestinian problem. De Miceli said he was convinced that an EC initiative on the Gulf would still be needed even after U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace mission to Baghdad this weekend.

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## RJ charges additional 'insurance tax'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, said Friday it had begun charging passengers an insurance tax of \$30 for destinations in the Gulf and \$30 for other destinations to help it cope with the dramatic rise in insurance costs for flights in the region. Hamed Abu Ghazala, chief executive officer of RJ, told Jordan Television that the airline had also increased the size of its aircraft fleet to another station outside the region. However, the additional insurance was to cope with the rising insurance costs. There is less loss, he said, in insurance costs which have increased by 200 percent. He said no airport in the region was closed for fear of war. RJ has rescheduled several of its flights and restructured flight routes as part of a contingency plan, but that the airline was still operating and serving the needs of Jordanians and other passengers in a satisfactory manner.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Iraqi said to have 'unofficial' copy of spurned letter

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Although Iraq's foreign minister refused to accept a letter to his president from U.S. President George Bush during talks in Geneva with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, he put an unofficial copy in his pocket, a British diplomat said Thursday. "I'm rather reliably informed that Mr. Tareq Aziz put a copy of that letter into his pocket," British U.N. Representative Sir David Hannay said during an informal conversation with reporters. Asked where Aziz obtained his copy of the letter, which he officially declined to accept as being impolite, Hannay said: "There were no doubt lots of copies going around. You chaps know, you get copies of every letter..." he joked.

## King Hassan pardons over 2,000 prisoners

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has pardoned 2,119 prisoners to mark the 47th anniversary of the nationalist Independence Manifesto, the Justice Ministry said. Most of those pardoned will be released immediately apart from eight prisoners jailed for life who had their sentences commuted. The Independence Manifesto was issued by the Istiqlal Party, now in the opposition, during the French protectorate which ended in 1956.

## Britain cuts aid to Sudan

LONDON (R) — Britain said Friday it was stopping all development aid to Sudan and urging its citizens to leave the country after Sudanese authorities freed five Palestinians convicted of killing British citizens. A Foreign Office spokesman said 10 staff members of the British Council cultural agency working in Khartoum were being withdrawn and tighter restrictions were being imposed on granting visas to Sudanese wishing to visit Britain. The spokesman said British development aid to Sudan in 1989 was £31 million (\$59 million). He said humanitarian aid to the country, which is racked by civil war and widespread hunger, would be continued.

## U.S. plans 'last flight' out of Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — On a dark gray folder, in red ink capital letters, was written "last flight." Bob Kandra, a U.S. diplomat in the embassy in Baghdad, Friday wrote in the folder names of Americans and other foreigners wanting to leave Baghdad in a U.S. government-chartered Iraqi Airways Boeing 727 jet. The 120-seat aircraft, with the remaining six American diplomats, an unspecified number of diplomats from other countries and some American journalists, will fly out of Baghdad Saturday for Frankfurt at 11 a.m. Baghdad time. There were an estimated 200 Americans, including 40 journalists, left in Iraq Friday. "When you got to go, you got to go," said Joseph Wilson, the U.S. chargé d'affaires as he walked out of the embassy and entered a car to drive home. "This is the last flight."

## French firm sold satellite photos of Kuwait to Iraq

PARIS (AP) — A French firm sold Iraq high-definition satellite photographs of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia three months before Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait, the company said Friday. The photos, commissioned by Iraq in 1988, could have been used to chart Iraqi invasion routes into the country, admitted the firm. Spot-image, the company delivered its last batch of photos to Baghdad on May 2, three months before Iraq invaded Kuwait. Spot-Image President Gerard Bracher told the Associated Press. "A lot of the images they ordered are of their own country, but they also include the neighbouring countries," Bracher said. "The cameras know no borders." Spot-Image is the private sales company for the French government's satellite programme. It sells digital photos all over the world for use in mapmaking or geological surveys.

## Perez de Cuellar on Gulf peace mission

### King, U.N. chief discuss prospects for Gulf peace, solutions to all regional problems

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar flew in late Friday and held crucial talks with His Majesty King Hussein in an effort to avert war in the Gulf over Iraq's occupation of Kuwait but he denied carrying any specific peace plan to resolve the five-month-old crisis.

The King and the U.N. chief exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and stressed the need to continue efforts for a political solution to the crisis, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said in a brief dispatch.

The secretary-general outlined to the King the outcome of his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand (in Paris earlier Friday), the agency said. The U.N. secretary general also briefed the King on the results of his meeting with the foreign ministers of the European Community (in Geneva), it said.

## Saddam rules out pullout without Palestine solution

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein Friday ruled out a withdrawal from Kuwait without settlement of the Palestinian problem, dampening hopes that the U.N. secretary general would succeed in his last-ditch effort to defuse the crisis.

Saddam spoke to Muslim scholars attending a conference in Baghdad to display support for Iraq in the Gulf standoff.

His defiant speech, recording of which was made available to the AP by conference sources, came one day before the U.N. chief, Javier Perez de Cuellar, was due to land in Baghdad in a final bid to convince the Iraqis to leave Kuwait.

Information Minister Latif Jassam, meanwhile, denied reports that Saddam would announce a new initiative to end the crisis after the Jan. 15 United Nations deadline for a withdrawal from Kuwait.

"We categorically deny such reports. It is absolutely untrue," Jassam told the Iraqi

The King "emphasised the role of the U.N. in efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and all problems of the area and underlined the importance of the visit that the U.N. secretary-general will make to Baghdad tomorrow (Saturday)," the agency added.

Perez de Cuellar, who arrived in Amman after securing strong EC support for his mission ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, said he had no plan to offer Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Reports from Geneva indicated that the ideas that the U.N. chief was carrying with him to Baghdad included a tacit, albeit indirect, acceptance of Iraq's demand that the Palestinian problem be linked to the Gulf crisis. It was reported that one of the points in the proposal was a provocation that an international peace conference will be held on the Middle East after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

In Amman, Perez de Cuellar would neither confirm nor deny the reports. "Why don't you ask the Portuguese foreign minister?" the Uruguayan diplomat countered reporters' questions at the airport.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who was among the EC ministers who met the secretary-general in Geneva, said the U.N. chief was proposing five points to Baghdad in return for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

According to the minister, the points included a guarantee that Iraq would not be attacked, a peacekeep-



His Majesty King Hussein Friday meets with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

(Continued on page 5)

## EC throws its weight behind world body's peace efforts

GENEVA (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) — Friday fully backed U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar's last-ditch Gulf peace drive to solve what it called the most serious crisis since World War II.

"He is the world's last messenger of peace," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said after the 12 EC foreign ministers met the secretary-general for 75 minutes in Geneva.

Perez de Cuellar has the moral backing of virtually the entire world on his solo mission but prospects of a diplomatic breakthrough dimmed when President Saddam Hussein said Iraq would defeat U.S.-led Gulf forces in a holy war.

The two are due to meet in the Iraqi capital Saturday, three days before a U.N. deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face being driven out by over 600,000 troops massed in the Gulf.

The EC would be ready to step in with its own efforts if he failed, Poos added shortly before Perez

de Cuellar left for Baghdad via Amman.

But the West European bloc would act only if asked.

Poos said, "Nothing is excluded" when questioned if this could include a meeting of the 12 with Saddam.

There would have to be prior consultations within the community.

Perez de Cuellar told reporters after the meeting that he had a

useful exchange with the 12 but had no specific proposals to take to Saddam.

"I received total encouragement from them," he said.

British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg said the U.N. chief "will be taking a very clear message to Saddam Hussein... that he, Saddam Hussein, must withdraw from Kuwait completely and

(Continued on page 5)

## Saudis to pay more to U.S.

## Bush says he and Gorbachev 'remain in sync' over Gulf

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia will pay 40 to 50 percent of the cost of the U.S. military deployment in the Gulf and any war against Iraq, the Saudi ambassador to the United States said Friday.

The envoy, Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, gave the figure to reporters in Riyadh after talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Saudi leaders. Baker then flew to Abut Dabi.

"I think our share of this operation will be 40 to 50 percent," Prince Bandar said. He added that he could not give a specific figure because nobody knew whether the crisis would erupt in war.

Washington has said the cost of its Gulf military operation since Iraq invaded Kuwait last Aug. 2 has totalled about \$30 billion, with expenses now running at around \$6 billion a month.

Baker met Saudi King Fahd early Friday to discuss war contingency plans.

A Saudi official said: "Our burden-sharing with our American friends will never disagree."

Both Bandar and Baker declined to specify how much money was involved or whether the Saudis were increasing their proportional share of the costs of Operation Desert Shield.

But in an ambiguous reply, Baker said he was satisfied with the results from the pitch he made

that he has mobilised 60 divisions, or 600,000-700,000 men, for a potential war after the United Nations Jan. 15 deadline for a withdrawal.

He also said he was certain of victory in the event of war because his armed forces had combat experience, unlike the Americans using military manuals.

"If the Americans want this problem resolved, they must put Palestine first... in fact, with or without settlement of the Gulf crisis, Palestine and Jerusalem must be liberated," Saddam said.

Earlier, the director general of the information ministry, Naji Al Hadithi, dismissed as "wishful thinking" the report that Saddam would express acceptance "in principle" for pulling out of Kuwait.

"Kuwait is part of Iraq, and any talk should be based on this fact," Hadithi said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation.

In his speech, Saddam said

(Continued on page 5)

## Ortega heads for Iraq with peace hope

By Sereine Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega headed for Baghdad Friday carrying a Third World proposal supported by some European leaders for a negotiated settlement to the five-month-old Gulf crisis.

"Our talks with the Iraqi president are going to be very important," Ortega said shortly before his departure after a three-day stay in Jordan during which he held two rounds of talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Ortega, leader of the revolutionary Sandinista movement, declined to be specific on the peace initiative — "the spirit of the Third World" — but said details of the plan would be revealed in Paris on Monday if Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein accepted the idea.

Ortega said, however, that the proposal had the support of several world leaders, including French President Francois Mitterrand, former German Chancellor Willy Brandt and former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The former Nicaraguan president, who now leads the opposition in his country after losing elections in February 1990, expressed optimism that the United States, leader of the anti-Iraq coalition, would come around and adopt a positive approach to his initiative.

"I would say that I find positive the American stand in that the U.S. has not put any obstacles or tried to block the initiative," he said revealing that he had no problem whatsoever in obtaining a visa to travel to New York for talks with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"They could have stalled over the issuance of the visa to me and my delegation," he told the Jordan Times. The delegation accompanying Ortega includes his close aide Father Miguel D'Costa, who was foreign minister in the Ortega government.

Ortega said that he believed that his proposal would succeed because "I think there are sufficient elements that lead me to believe that it can lead to success."

The Soviet leader phoned Bush amid fears of a military crackdown in independent-minded Lithuania with the world's attention focused on the Gulf.

Moscow firmly opposes war in the Gulf and believes not all diplomatic means have been exhausted, Soviet envoy Igor Rogachev said in Beijing Friday.

Bush said there was "not great discussion" of the Baltic situation

## Badran: Iraqi army will not enter Jordan unless Kingdom requests it

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran said this week that the Iraqi army will not cross the Jordanian border unless the Jordanian government requested from Baghdad military support in case of an Israeli attack.

"Iraq will not cross the Jordanian border unless there was an official Jordanian request and only for the purpose of defending Jordan," Mr. Badran said.

He said that the Iraqi leaders did not object to such terms and were in full agreement with the Jordanian view on the issue. "It was discussed and agreed upon (with Iraq)," he said.

In a joint interview with the

Israel would either launch an attack and occupy a strip of Jordanian territories to pave the way for a forced mass exodus of Palestinians or would launch an all-out invasion against Jordan.

Mr. Badran warned, however, that any Israeli incursion into Jordanian territory — whether to attack Iraq or Jordan itself — will be viewed "as an act of aggression."

"We shall not allow any incursions into Jordan," he pledged, reiterating that Jordan would then seek help from Syria, Iraq and Egypt.

Concern in Jordan about a possible Israeli incursion have been intensified by the faltering diplomatic efforts to solve the Gulf crisis. Jordanian officials and analysts fear that in case of hostilities erupting in the Gulf,

tions from the Jordanian government on the closure order.

Heads of several Asian diplomatic missions and representatives of international relief agencies are scheduled to meet with the Evacuee Welfare Committee Saturday.

The border closure followed repeated Jordanian appeals for reimbursement for the funds it spent to extend facilities to ensure the smooth evacuation of over 865,000 people fleeing Iraq and Kuwait until December.

The government has said that it has incurred total expenses of \$56 million and received only \$12 million as reimbursement and that its efforts to be fully reimbursed have

(Continued on page 5)

## Border with Iraq remains closed; a few thousand reported stranded

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's border with Iraq remained closed Friday except for Jordanian, Syria and Lebanese nationals and travellers reported that a few thousand Arabs and Asians were stranded in the no-man's-land between the front posts of the two countries.

Witnesses also reported a visible increase in the number of trucks carrying personal belongings of evacuees arriving at the Al Ruweisah post, about 350 kilometres northeast of Amman.

Jordan closed the Al Ruweisah post for evacuees Wednesday saying the Kingdom was ill-equipped to handle any massive wave of people fleeing Iraq and Kuwait.

Asian diplomats said meanwhile they were trying to get clarifications from the Jordanian government on the closure order.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran had asked the Iraqi authorities not to allow any evacuees across the border to Al Ruweisah.

Officials said Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese nationals were exempt from the border closure.

They noted that Syrian and Lebanese nationals posed no problem or demand except for the use of Jordanian territory for immediate transit.

Travellers said Syrians and Lebanese were driven straight from Al Ruweisah to Ramtha on the northwestern border with Syria.

Asian diplomats said meanwhile they were trying to get clarifications from the Jordanian government on the closure order.

RJ officials informed us that they could not offer their planes, and hence we signed an agreement with Aeroflot," Maroof, an Afghan diplomat, said.

However, two IOM-chartered planes belonging to Egyptair were allowed to fly through Saudi territory later Wednesday and Thursday, IOM officials said.

Mohammad Yahya Maroof, who on Friday took over as

## Junblatt leaves cabinet

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Druze leader Walid Junblatt Friday resigned his post as minister without portfolio in a half-Christian, half-Muslim government formed two weeks ago to steer the country out of civil war.

Voice of the Mountain, mouthpiece of Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), reported the resignation saying the move was motivated by "personal reasons." It did not elaborate.

It said Junblatt, 43, disclosed his resignation while inaugurating a public library in the town of Baalbek, in the Shouf mountains powerbase of the Druze community. There was no immediate reaction from Prime Minister Omar Karanji.

Junblatt's resignation was another blow to the national reconciliation government, formed Dec. 21 and boycotted immediately by three right-wing Christian members — Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces militia, George Saadeh, leader of the Falange Party and Michel Sasseine, an official of the National Liberal Party.

Karami had hoped that bringing party and militia leaders into one cabinet would speed up efforts to restore government authority and eventually disband all irregular militias that have controlled the country since the outbreak of the civil war almost 16 years ago.

Geagea was appointed minister without portfolio, Saadeh minister of post and telecommunications and Sasseine minister of labour, but they have refused to take up their posts.

Junblatt and the Christian minister did not attend a parliament session Wednesday during which the government won a vote of confidence.

The Christians have charged that Karami's government was overwhelmingly tilted towards



Walid Junblatt

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon with 40,000 troops deployed in the country under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League.

Karami formed his government in line with an Arab League-brokered peace plan for Lebanon.

The accord was worked out by parliament members in a special session at the Saudi Arabian town of Taif in October 1988.

It is a bit early to determine its implications, but Junblatt's resignation could torpedo the whole Taif process," one political source said.

"It will definitely embarrass his allies and distract Damascus," he added.

Junblatt said Lebanon faced "black future." He did not elaborate but said he opposed the appointment of a deputy to replace his late father in parliament as stipulated by the Taif pact.

Junblatt is the son of the late Druze leader Kamal Junblatt who was assassinated in 1977. He maintains good links with Syria.

He heads a force of 10,000 mainly Druze militiamen and his 5,000-strong PSP controls the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut and a coastal strip of the capital.

PSP sources said his resignation followed discontent over Druze representation.

"We were not satisfied with the representation of the Druze in the government nor with the portfolios given to Druze ministers," one source said.

## Planes fail to land in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — Fighting in the embattled Somali capital Mogadishu prevented planes from rescuing foreigners on Friday after a Korean diplomat was killed and several Italians wounded in an attack on the Italian embassy compound.

An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) spokeswoman said two Italian military transport planes had flown to Mogadishu but returned to neighbouring Kenya because they were unable to land.

"We do not know yet whether the fighting was around the airport or in the city, which would mean people could not assemble at the airport," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

Mogadishu has been torn for the past 13 days by fierce fighting between loyalist troops and rebels fighting to end the 21-year rule of President Mohammad Siad Barre.

"There may be a rescue attempt tomorrow," said a spokeswoman at the Italian embassy in Nairobi.

An Italian official in Rome said the Korean was killed on Friday when Italy decided to evacuate its embassy. He said he did not know whether the diplomat was from North or South Korea or the total number of casualties in the incident.

"There was an explosion. It was apparently a grenade attack. We do not know where it came from," he said.

The Italian and Egyptian embassies are the only ones still open in Mogadishu following the rebel onslaught on the city.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Documentary ..... Tel. 616740  
16:00 ..... News ..... Tel. 616740  
16:30 ..... Programme review ..... Tel. 632785  
16:35 ..... Children's programme ..... Tel. 624590  
17:30 ..... Educational programme ..... Tel. 624590  
18:00 ..... News Summary ..... Tel. 624590  
18:10 ..... Local series ..... Tel. 624590  
18:30 ..... Programme review ..... Tel. 624590  
18:35 ..... News in Arabic ..... Tel. 624590  
20:30 ..... Arabic series ..... Tel. 624590  
21:30 ..... Arabic series ..... Tel. 624590  
22:30 ..... Arabic series ..... Tel. 624590  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic ..... Tel. 624590  
23:10 ..... Series continued ..... Tel. 624590

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Documentary ..... Tel. 616740  
18:00 ..... News in French ..... Tel. 616740  
19:15 ..... Cancel de Notes ..... Tel. 616740  
19:30 ..... News in Arabic ..... Tel. 616740  
20:30 ..... Good Morning Miss Alia ..... Tel. 616740  
21:00 ..... Encounters ..... Tel. 616740  
22:00 ..... News in English ..... Tel. 616740  
22:00 ..... Feature film: "Caroline"

### PRAYER TIMES

6:51 ..... Fajr ..... Tel. 616740  
7:05 ..... (Sunrise) ..... Tel. 616740  
11:45 ..... Dhuhr ..... Tel. 616740  
14:32 ..... 'Asr ..... Tel. 616740  
16:55 ..... Maghrib ..... Tel. 616740  
18:17 ..... Isha ..... Tel. 616740

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifet, Tel. 616740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

St. Elie Church Tel. 616757, Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 665326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There will be change for local showers of rain and winds will be south-easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be north-easterly moderate and seas calm.

## World pins hope for peace on United Nations mission

LONDON (AP) — World governments are hoping that a U.N. mission would find some way to avert a war in the Gulf, but there was deep foreboding.

Britain, saying it won't hesitate to fight, scheduled an emergency debate in parliament. The Soviets said the failure of the U.S.-Iraq talks in Geneva Wednesday was "lamentable."

Several countries withdrew envoys from Baghdad, while Germany prepared to give more aid to the U.S.-led multinational alliance confronting Iraq.

"These five days for peace will be the longest days," said French government spokesman Louis Le Pensec. "They will be exploited until the ultimate instant in the service of peace."

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's weekend trip to Baghdad for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is the last scheduled diplomatic effort before Jan. 15, the date after which the United Nations has authorised force to remove Iraqi

troops from Kuwait.

Perez de Cuellar was to meet with European Community officials in Geneva Friday.

While fully supporting the U.N. mission, Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said that sometimes the only way to achieve peace is to fight for it.

"We in Britain, perhaps more

clearly than most people, have learned through our history that at the end of the day, if you are interested in collective security ... if you are interested in the United Nations and its chances, then there comes a time when you have to make a sacrifice, when you do have to risk the use of force," he said.

But Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, called for more time to allow the U.N. sanctions against Iraq to work.

Israeli state radio reported

Israel's military on an increased

state of alert Thursday while Israelis and Palestinians stocked up on essential goods.

"There is a feeling we could be at the brink of war," Parliament Speaker Dov Shilonsky said. "Those who are sharpening their tongues and perhaps their swords, if they raise their arm up will surely cut it off."

An editorial in Norway's independent Verdens Gang newspaper warned: "Their world is on the verge of a gruesome war ... the tiny hope that remains is if U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar can get Iraqis to go alone with a solution at the last minute."

Many leaders expressed disappointment at the failure of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

Aziz also informally turned down an offer from the European Community to meet in Algiers, saying the EC could come to Baghdad if it wanted to talk.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said

officials were meeting to determine what more they could do in the next five days. He added that the Soviet Union attached "great importance" to Perez de Cuellar's mission.

"I hope very much that the solution will be peaceful because war means victims and death of people, thousands and thousands of people, young men. This is a tragedy," Churkin told reporters in Moscow.

"We urge all parties, and specifically Iraq, to understand the seriousness of the prevailing situation ...," he said.

With the fear of war growing, EC officials meeting in Luxembourg Thursday said they expected all 12 member nations to withdraw their embassy staffs from Baghdad.

Five British diplomats left Baghdad by convoy Thursday. The United States, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain announced they would withdraw their embassy staffs from Baghdad.

The newspaper took note of Perez de Cuellar's mission to Baghdad, under the heading: "Hopes for peace are not extinguished."

The Soviet Union said it would evacuate some diplomats and all family members of Baghdad-based officials.

Italy scheduled an emergency debate in parliament for Jan. 16 while Germany confirmed it increased aid to the multinational force after Thursday's Berliner Morganpost reported an increase totalling nearly \$159 million, mostly to American and British forces.

However, Germany has sent no troops. German public opinion is against German troops involvement, and anti-war protests were planned for several German cities this weekend.

The Vatican newspaper, L'Observatore Romano, strongly urged further diplomatic efforts, quoting Pope John Paul II's Christmas day warning that "war is an adventure with no return."

"Arms are not instruments to restore or build justice," newspaper said in a front-page editorial. "Mankind has a right to more dignified means."

WASHINGTOM (R) — The U.S. government urged Americans Friday to consider leaving Israel because of the increasing danger they would be targets in a Gulf war.

He said Israel would not

launch a pre-emptive attack against Iraq despite the threats against it.

Shamir also said if there is a war, it should be short one because Iraq had no chance against the allied air power.

Mubarak said he did not think

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would succeed in his trip to Baghdad to avert war, but added that he thought it was worth trying.

The Egyptian president from occupied Jerusalem, said, "you have to maintain your hope until the last moment... but I must say that this is a very slim hope, very slim."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said Wednesday after his meeting with Baker in Geneva that Iraq would attack Israel if it were attacked by the U.S.-led coalition that includes several Arab states including Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Mubarak, who has supported

the United States in the Gulf crisis, sending several thousand troops to Saudi Arabia, said that Israel would be justified in defending itself or retaliating after any Iraqi attack.

Shamir, speaking from occupied Jerusalem, said, "you have to maintain your hope until the last moment... but I must say that this is a very slim hope, very slim."

"I can't understand what is in his mind. I cannot understand the mentality of his advisers. Could they have the courage to tell him that this is wrong or just, right, or that's right?"

"I know that he needs money, needed money and the occupation of Kuwait may be for money," Mubarak said.

Mubarak rejected the

Gulf crisis with the Palestinian problem as Iraq has sought to do.

"The Kuwaiti problem is an Arab-Arab problem. I can't occupy another Arab country to solve the Palestinian problem. It is not logic. It is not acceptable," he said.

Shamir said if there was unrest in Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel could handle the situation.

Austrian President Kurt Waldheim left Vienna for talks in Egypt and Oman Friday and said it would take a miracle to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Waldheim said he telephoned United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday, before the U.N. chief left for Baghdad.

"I'm sorry to say that he is also

very sceptical about the way things have developed and it will take a miracle to find a peaceful solution," Waldheim told a news conference.

## U.S. Congress plans Gulf vote; senate in doubt

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — congressional leaders scheduled

votes Saturday on whether to authorise President George Bush to go to war in the Gulf, with support in the Senate in doubt.

He said Congress should instead approve a resolution specifically authorising Bush to use U.S. military forces to carry out U.N. resolutions calling for Iraq to leave Kuwait by Jan. 15 or risk war.

War authority supporters said after a meeting with Bush that the president would be satisfied to win Senate approval by a single vote.

The president said again that if it's an affirmative vote, he wants it," Republican Senator Richard Lugar told reporters. "Fifty-one will be good enough."

Democratic Senator Charles Robb said after the meeting with Bush that the odds were 50-50, for Senate approval.

But as Congress headed into a second day of debate, few Senate Democrats had joined Republicans in supporting war authority for Bush, and Democrats have a 55-45 majority in the Senate.

Most, including conservatives who sometimes support Bush, instead announced they would vote for Democratic leaders' resolution directing Bush to give economic sanctions more time to force Iraq to leave Kuwait without war.

Bush asked for Congress' approval but said he legally has the power to use military force without the legislature's vote.

The debate for and against war was often impassioned in both the House and the Senate.

House Republican leader Robert Michel, a World War II veteran, said he knew as well as anyone the horrors of war.

But he said the Democratic leaders' resolution relying on sanctions would not work because the international coalition applying them was unlikely to bold more than six months or a year.

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The president said again that if it's an affirmative vote, he wants it," Republican Senator Richard Lugar told reporters. "Fifty-one will be good enough."

Democratic Senator Charles Robb said after the meeting with Bush that the odds were 50-50, for Senate approval.

But as Congress headed into a second day of debate, few Senate Democrats had joined Republicans in supporting war authority for Bush, and Democrats have a 55-45 majority in the Senate.

Most, including conservatives who sometimes support Bush, instead announced they would vote for Democratic leaders' resolution directing Bush to give economic sanctions more time to force Iraq to leave Kuwait without war

# Home News

## French leave; others also

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A chartered Air France plane carrying 141 French nationals flew out early Friday in a government-organised evacuation flight ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to relinquish Kuwait or face war.

Embassy officials said most of the passengers were women and children — family members and dependents of embassy staff as well as some private citizens. Others included non-essential staff at the embassy and private individuals.

Some were French women married to Jordanians. Their husbands were staying back in Jordan, the officials said.

According to a French source, other European diplomatic missions tried to get some of their people aboard the Air France flight but there was no room aboard the aircraft.

European sources said they were hoping that at least two other charter flights would be organised from Amman in the next 48 hours in addition to the regular airlines flying to European and North American destinations. One of them would fly a shuttle through the Gulf states and Jordan to pick up French nationals Saturday.

Airport sources said while airlines were reporting long waiting lists there was no visible pressure at the airport, unlike last week when hundreds thronged the concourse in a frenzy to leave Jordan after being advised or ordered by their governments to do so.

Friday's Europe-bound flights included a few international staffers of the United Nations as well as family members and dependents.

U.N. officials said there was no strict advice to U.N. staff to leave Jordan, but that there was a suggestion that they "voluntarily repatriate" their family members and dependents.

Many U.N. officials said they were staying back in Jordan until such time when the headquarters issued strict travel advisories.

Also flying out Friday were the British ambassador to Iraq, Harold Walker, and three of his diplomatic staff. The four arrived here in a convoy of cars from Baghdad Thursday.

Ambassador Walker told reporters late Thursday he was "sad" that he was leaving since the Foreign Office instruction for him to leave Iraq meant that diplomacy was no longer working in efforts to defuse the tension and avert war in the Gulf.

The ambassador said the Iraqi leadership was "very much aware" of the military might arrayed against Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. He said ordinary Iraqis were apprehensive of war.

The Spanish ambassador to Iraq and some of his staff, and Pakistani and Australian diplomats also arrived in Amman early Friday. They are scheduled to fly out Saturday for home.

In line with an exchange of diplomatic notes, five American diplomats are scheduled to leave Baghdad Friday while an equal number of Iraqi diplomats would leave their mission in Washington.

Several European countries have meanwhile announced that they were recalling their diplomats from Baghdad. The departures would leave most missions with no diplomatic presence at all.

In the meantime, diplomatic sources said most European diplomats in Amman had been issued with gas masks and given detailed instructions to deal with emergency situations.

"Nobody is actually predicting that Amman would be part of the war theatre," said a European diplomat. "The issuance of masks is only a precautionary measure." Several Far Eastern countries have also issued gas masks to their diplomatic staff in Jordan and other countries in the region.



QUEEN MEETS ITALIAN VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS HEADS: Her Majesty Queen Noor met in Rome with representatives of several Italian social and voluntary organisations and discussed coordination of efforts with the Jordanian societies in providing humanitarian and social services to the Jordanian community.

The Queen briefed the representatives on programmes conducted through the Jordanian voluntary organisations to provide training to Jordanian women to help initiate productive, income-generating projects.

## Women group returns from Iraq, saying it's not worth dying for clan

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A seven-member international women peace delegation which arrived here Friday afternoon from Baghdad says that war can still be averted and that the first step to do so may be a postponing of the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"Only three days away from Jan. 15, our message is that there are causes worth living for and not dying for, we still believe there is a way to avert this war," said Maude Barlow who represented the voice of women from Canada.

The seven-member delegation, said Barlow, left Baghdad Friday morning with the firm conviction that "Iraqis don't want war."

The Iraqi people want negotiations but Mr. Bush wants submission from the Iraqis. That is the problem," said Nawal Saadawi, a prominent feminist from Egypt and a delegate in the group.

Saadawi, who opposes her government's stand on the Gulf crisis, said it was vital to encourage "real negotiations, not just the U.S. talking down to a third world country and telling it what to do."

The delegation, headed by Margaret Papandreou of Greece, met with top Iraqi officials as well as members of Iraqi women groups before splitting into two groups, one coming to Jordan and the other going on to Turkey to report on their fact-finding mission in Baghdad.

The delegation is expected within the next two days to go to Washington to speak before the U.S. Congress, American women groups and "maybe President Bush."

The group said that major anti-war demonstrations are expected to begin in the U.S. on Jan. 15 and that the delegation would participate by speaking about their experience in Iraq.

In a statement to the press, the women's group, which includes two Americans, one Canadian, one Soviet, one

Greek, one Egyptian and one Jordanian delegate, said that they felt deep anxiety over the "notion that men and women may die to return to its throne a feudal, oil-rich oligarchy. Operating to the advantage of an ostentatious Al Sabah royal family, a family where male members treat women as play bunnies, with no voting rights."

The statement went on to say: "As if that were not enough, the U.S. and its allies are also protecting a regime in Saudi Arabia which does not even permit it's women to drive."

The statement said that the group was basically opposed to setting differences through the use of force, which in their words "only perpetuates the use of force on all levels ending up in the family."

The delegates, who spoke to the press to Amman, said that they hoped to help in the realisation of a dialogue which has to take place "either before a conflict takes place or afterwards."

Our aim is to help in averting that conflict ... of course."

## European parliamentarians say they work for peace

AMMAN — A six-member group representing the European Community Friday wound up a two-day visit to Jordan and left for Damascus and Beirut in the course of their current tour of the region.

The delegation, representing the Parliamentary Association for European-Arab Cooperation, was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for a discussion on Middle East and Gulf crisis developments and on the European role in averting a devastating war in the Gulf and bringing about peace to the Middle East.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Prince Hassan had reviewed with the group Jordan's efforts to assist those of the European nations in bringing about a just and comprehensive peace to the region. Present at the meeting was Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin.

The delegation members, who are expected in Amman again on

Monday, following the tour in Syria and Lebanon, had a meeting Thursday with Foreign Minister Taha Al Masri who urged the European parliaments and governments to do all they can to work for peace and save the region from the dangers of war.

Mr. Masri briefed the delegation on Jordan's stand with regard to the Gulf crisis and asked that the political dialogue with Iraq be intensified to stave off war.

The European delegation was also received by the speakers of the Upper and Lower houses of Parliament, and its head was quoted as saying that the European parliaments were working towards the establishment of peace.

He said that Europe and the Arab Nation have a lot in common and they should intensify their cooperation and enhance their understanding so as to help the Palestinians regain their rights.

He said that Europe backs the

establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East so that all potentials and resources can be exploited for progress and development.

Addressing the delegation, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad al Lawzi said Jordan wants peace for all peoples of the world and that His Majesty King Hussein has been seeking to achieve that goal.

Mr. Lawzi stressed that Jordan wanted the international legitimacy to be applied to all issues in all parts of the world.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabyai paid tribute to the delegation and to the European parliament for their sincere drive to achieve peace. Mr. Arabyai reviewed the historic relationship between Europe and the Arab World and described the present military buildup in the Gulf as a means to kill democracy and restore colonialism.

He said that the society would also be coordinating with international organisations and the United Nations offices in Amman.

The society took charge of the previous waves of evacuees who were put up in a number of camps and areas around Amman; the charitable society provided food and other relief supplies to nearly 50,000 evacuees of different nationalities.

It called for applying international legitimacy to all problems of the region noting that the United Nations had passed many resolutions on the Palestinian question, "but none of them has been implemented."

The statement said that the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait is an inter-

nal Arab issue "which can be dealt with by the Arab family."

The statement called on the United States and its allies to listen to the voice of reason and to adhere to the principles of right and justice in dealing with the region's issues.

It is a statement issued Friday, the AYF recalled the dangers menacing Arabs and Muslims as a result of the Israeli policies and the brutal Israeli measures against holy places in the occupied Arab territories.

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national Arab issue "which can be dealt with by the Arab family."

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The forum warned of the consequences of a war in the region saying that it would create "grudge, hatred and historical hostility among the world nations, thus undermining rather than developing respect of human values and aspirations."

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During the reception given in his honour, Deputy Samir Qawar thanked the Pope for his relentless efforts and prayers to relieve the suffering of the peoples of the world, especially the Palestinian people. Qawar blamed the absence of a solution to the Palestinian problem on the failure of the international community to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The Jordanian peace delegation was also received by Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who praised His Majesty's efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Qawar noted that the pre-

sent Gulf crisis was one of the most dangerous challenges facing the Arab and international community and stressed the need to address it in all its dimensions.

Deputy Qawar praised His Majesty's efforts to reach a settlement of the Gulf crisis and said that Jordan believed that dialogue was the only means for permanent justice in the region.

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## Pope tells peace delegation he appreciates Jordan's stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Pope John Paul expressed his respect and appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein for what he has done and is doing to achieve peace in the Middle East, and to Jordan's well-known firm stand calling for ending peaceful solutions to all problems of the region.

The Pope, who met with the twenty-seven member Jordanian peace delegation including parliamentary figures, Thursday Jan. 10, stressed that Jordan set an example of perfect brotherly relations between Muslim and Christians as well as a model of Muslim-

Christian dialogue which he described as the "fruit of His Majesty's wise policy."

The Pope also said that Jordan had set an ideal model for the kind of dialogue the world needs to achieve true and just peace.

The Pope pledged to exert his utmost efforts to improve the situation in the Middle East and to find solutions based on justice, peace and equality for all the problems in the region.

The Pope thanked the delegation and asked it to convey his greetings and wishes to His Majes-

ty King Hussein and to the people of Jordan.

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## Nastase: Romania keen on ties with Arabs despite vote at U.N.

By Ica Wahbeh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Romania is anxious to maintain its close relations with the Arab World and does not want its support for the U.N. resolution, authorising the use of force against Iraq, seen as support for the anti-Iraq coalition led by the U.S. Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase said Friday.

Mr. Nastase, who arrived here Thursday and was received by His Majesty King Hussein later in the day, said he also delivered a message from Romanian President Ion Iliescu to the King.

The minister described his present visit to the region as aimed at "facilitating the understanding of the political evolution in Romania" and discussing the prospects for peacefully resolving the Gulf crisis ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

The King and Nastase exchanged views on the Gulf crisis and the Monarch briefed the minister on Jordan's efforts to solve the crisis peacefully and urged Romania to adopt a more active role, in its capacity as member of the U.N. Security Council, to settle the crisis and avoid war.

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By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

# Jordan Times

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## Task for the U.N.

JAVIER PEREZ de Cuellar, the secretary general of the United Nations, will be in Baghdad tomorrow. His visit there is largely seen as a last-minute attempt to avert war in the Gulf. He will be in Iraq in his capacity as representative of the international community but not as a free agent who could negotiate over the substance of U.N. resolutions and actions.

To some people, Mr. Perez de Cuellar's task appears to be extremely difficult, if not next to impossible, since he has to persuade Iraq to adhere to the 12 Security Council resolutions that have been adopted on the Gulf crisis since August.

Iraq, however, has already accepted all these resolutions provided they as well as all other outstanding resolutions relating to the region are implemented either simultaneously or in accordance with their respective dates of adoption.

The simple point that arises here is not the principle of non-legitimacy of occupation but the venue of enforcing the principle everywhere in the gulf. In other words, it is incumbent on the U.N. chief to accept and to see to it that the Security Council decisions are implemented unequivocally and equally everywhere and not just in the Gulf.

The problem is not just in Baghdad. It is also in Washington and Tel Aviv. The American administration insists on selective implementation of the U.N. resolutions. According to their logic, those resolutions against Iraq must be enforced and those against Israel should be deferred until later.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar should make another trip to Washington following his visit to Baghdad to talk to President Bush into adherence to all Security Council resolutions, to stop heating the drians of war, and to exert pressure on Israel to end its 22-year-old occupation and annexation of the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

If the deadlock is over illegal occupation in defiance of international legitimacy, the problem would have been solved on August 12, 1990, when President Saddam Hussein enunciated his first initiative to solve the crisis. However, the American agenda is quite different. According to U.S. official declarations and other theories, President Bush and his administration are after control of Arab oil reserves, maintenance of the American life style, creating jobs locally, building a new world order under American hegemony, destroying Iraqi military and technological capabilities and protecting Israeli security.

The secretary-general — who enjoys respect and credibility all over the world — must say openly whether it is President Saddam or President Bush who is rejecting the full and total implementation of the international resolutions in their entirety. But if it is not diplomatic enough to say this publicly, something else has to be done instead: To convince the Iraqis that the U.N. sincerely opposes double standards and selectivity in enforcing international legitimacy and that the international organisation will be able to implement all of its own resolutions in a very short period of time.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT has become clear now for all that the United States represents the real obstacle in the path of peace in the Middle East by refusing to implement Security Council resolutions pertaining to the situation in Palestine, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday. By obstructing peace in Palestine, the U.S. administration is impeding a speedy solution for the Gulf crisis and is escalating tension and endangering world peace, the paper said. By refusing to implement U.N. resolutions on Palestine, Israel is also adopting an aggressive attitude similar to that of the United States, and making ready for war and aggression in the Gulf region, the paper noted. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who is visiting Baghdad Saturday should have indeed directed his mission to Washington instead to persuade the U.S. administration to implement Security Council resolutions pertaining to Palestine and pending for over 23 years, because by settling the Palestine issue, de Cuellar would be helping to resolve the Gulf crisis, the paper pointed out. De Cuellar realises this fact as do all the heads of the European Community and the leaders of the world but they are keeping silent about the Palestine issue and making an outcry over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, the paper continued. It said that time is ripe now for the brave leaders of the world to stand up to the U.S. administration and tell American leaders that it can not continue to be a slave to Israel, and should force the Israeli to withdraw from Arab lands occupied since 1967 to pave the ground for peace in the Gulf. The paper said that Israel should not be rewarded for occupying Arab land and the world community ought to do all it can to evict Israel from the occupied Arab land.

Al Dustour Friday dwelt on King Hussein's European tour and his relentless efforts to achieve peace in the Gulf through dialogue and negotiations. Over the past five months, King Hussein has been spearheading efforts to open the way for peace in the Gulf and in his last trip, the king has been urging the European leaders to step in and help the peace efforts despite the failure of the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States to achieve any headway in their Geneva talks, the paper pointed out. Washington's failure to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, said the paper, should encourage the Europeans to take their own initiative and search for peace, the paper added. The King has been telling the Europeans about the need to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions in all issues in the Middle East; and through his quiet diplomacy, he has succeeded in enabling the Europeans to take their current moves towards resolving the crisis in the Gulf. Jordan, the paper added, is adhering to its national stand and is confident that its course of action in matters related to the Gulf and the Palestine issue are sound but it said Jordan believes international legitimacy has to be applied in all matters and all issues because they all have their impact on world peace.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# The U.S. 'I told him' policy

While the world held its breath in hopeful expectation, the Iraqi-American Geneva foreign ministers' meeting lasted for over six hours. The hopes raised before the meeting were not false ones as some prophets of doom have already characterised them, but were based on a faith that human character would finally win over the rigidity and the illogic of the entire situation.

The most important question that should be addressed to the Americans is whether adherence to the Jan. 15 United Nations deadline, set at their behest, is more important than the peace of the region and possibly the world?

The end result of the meeting, held between two otherwise cultured and reasonable men, was a classic example of the breakdown of meaningful dialogue. They talked but one wonders whether Mr. Baker was listening. Why couldn't Secretary of State Baker see the point that Foreign Minister Aziz was trying to impress upon him: That the mother of all Middle Eastern problems, tension and instability is the Palestinian question, that however the present Gulf crisis be resolved another crisis, perhaps uglier and more devastating, will soon crop up should the Palestine problem continue unresolved.

Mr. Aziz seems to have come to the meeting with the intent of carrying on a meaningful dialogue that would not only look into the Kuwaiti situation and the possibilities of Iraq's withdrawal, but the peace and the security of the entire region as well. In his press conference Mr. Aziz said that he tried to impress on Secretary Baker that "... what is at stake in our region is peace ... a comprehensive peace that once and for all time will equitably address the fountains of instability and tension in it. Mr. Aziz further indicated Iraq's willingness to abide by the new world

order. He said, "... we have no problem with that order and we would love to be a party to it" providing that it is not imposed in one case "without implementing it on other issues ..."

It was fascinating to watch how Secretary Baker avoided the substance and stuck to delivering his message which though couched in diplomatic language was hostile. Iraq was given a choice between political death wrapped in humiliation or death by fighting. For the United States to come to the table with only this choice to present to the Iraqis is truly a phenomenal lack of understanding of the Arabs in general and the Iraqis in particular. This faulty approach is the more amazing when one realises that the Americans have been watching and studying the Iraqis and their leadership at least since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran war in 1980.

One has to wonder why the Americans continued to pursue this approach devoid as it was of the niceties of diplomatic intercourse. Is it, or was it designed to arouse the anger of the Iraqi side? And why?

Mr. Aziz repeated over and over again his and Iraq's complaints about the style with which the Americans addressed them: A style designed and calculated to humiliate not communicate. Even the letter of President Bush to the Iraqi leader seems to have been written in harsh insulting language causing Minister Aziz to decline to deliver it to his president. Was that too deliberate? And why has the situation been allowed to deteriorate to this personalised level between the two nations? Why this Saddam mania? And why this continued arrogant approach in dealing with Iraq?

The tone of the American secretary of state's when delivering his message seems to have been designed to generate negative vibrations on the part of the Iraqis. Mr. Baker, in his news conference said, "I told him (Minister Aziz) the terrible consequences of our implementing United Nations resolutions ... I told him there is no linkage between Iraqi aggression and the Palestine question ... I told him there will be no reward by linking them ... The tenor and the tone is not only insulting but worse, calculated to generate negative results. One wonders how two civilised human beings, not to mention responsible officials, in whose hands rests the matter of war and peace, could have carried on a dialogue in such an atmosphere. Not only Tariq Aziz but the entire Arab World was shocked at the style of the meeting. It was neither negotiation, communication nor even an exchange of views. I had the feeling that one side was intent on reprimanding and disciplining the other as frequently as an adult attempts to discipline an errant child.

No one knows where to go from here yet one thing seems to be quite clear: That the West, this time led by the United States is once again embarking on the path of a colonial approach to the region. Twice this century and now for the third time, the West is exercising its naked power to reduce the Arabs: After the first world war when the Sykes-Picot Agreement dismembering the Arab World was concluded and after the second world war when at the tip of British bayonets Israel was established, and now the third major incursion by the entire West led by the United States. As a friend of mine so aptly puts it, "why can't we be left alone ... to live in peace ... to raise our children ... to live a normal life ...?"

## Rights of access to the action

By Georgina Henry

IF IT COMES to war with Iraq, two things will distinguish the media coverage from previous wars. One is the technology: the Gulf area is already bristling with satellites which have been transmitting news of the crisis for five months and there is the potential, as never before, for continuous television coverage of events. The second is the number of journalists from different countries on the ground: this will not be a war like the Falklands, witnessed only by British journalists controlled by the Ministry of Defence under the longstanding conventions of government secrecy. Other countries which make up the allied force have more liberal attitudes to a journalist's right to ask questions, although it is already clear that Washington, after its experience in Vietnam, is trying to take a more British approach to media control.

In theory, these special teams, accompanied by military minders, are intended to facilitate media access to the actual scene of the battle. For the MoD, they are a new development following the criticism of the lack of access during the Falklands. But already there are signs of tension over organisation and rules. Foreign editors of British newspapers, for example, who met at the MoD yesterday, were told that there will be only four press "pool" places available on the two most important MRTs — those sent with the 4th and 7th armoured divisions — while television has been given three places. The MoD is still negoti-

ating with the Saudis over the number of British journalists that will be accepted. Meanwhile, the press is arguing for at least one more place on each of the four MRTs.

British journalists briefed last week in the Gulf were told that all material collected by their MRT colleagues would be processed through a Forward Transmission Unit for vetting by military personnel. Here the media ground rules come into play. First, there are 14 categories of material that is "non-releasable" without MoD consultation — details about troops and weaponry, future operations, military installations, etc. — which the MoD describes as "protecting the security and the safety of the troops involved, while allowing you reasonable freedom and access in covering your story." Beyond this there is MoD "guidance" to editors at home on release of information.

"There is an obvious danger," it reads, "that publication of authoritative information about the operations of British or allied forces could unwittingly jeopardise their success. Similarly, information about other preparations relevant to operations ... Less obviously, considerable care is needed in the reporting of matters which might give an indication of the ability to sustain current operations. Publicly stated speculation about future operations, particularly where

it gives the appearance of being well-informed or authoritative, also carries the risk of causing an actual or potential enemy to consider possibilities that otherwise might not have occurred to him."

So far, there is no sign from the British press or broadcasters that they consider the "guidelines" agreed with the MoD a problem. "There are three broad principles that we have agreed to," says Nigel Hancock, ITN's representative in discussions with the MoD. "That we won't endanger life, that we won't endanger operations and that we won't give away technical secrets. If there is disagreement with the MoD over our pictures then that will be discussed under these three principles. We don't consider it censorship."

"They are always going to be grey areas," says John Wilson, BBC controller of editorial policy. "If there are difficulties, these will have to be discussed on a case by case basis. In the Falklands, it was more difficult because the information was coming out of the Task Force and we depended on the Task Force for our communications. This time, there are lots of broadcasters out there with their own satellite equipment. On the other hand, if broadcasters do something that the military are really displeased with, it's not difficult for them to have that person removed. We have to accept that in times like these

the givers of information have enormous power."

The attitude of American journalists is, however, somewhat different. American reporters in the Gulf have worked under similar guidelines about "non-releasable" information, but were last week issued by U.S. field commanders with a more comprehensive set of guidelines for their "combat correspondent pools" — the equivalent of the MRTs. Last Friday the Pentagon withdrew them after protests from newspapers and broadcasters back in the U.S.

"They were completely unacceptable," says Bill Headline, CNN's representative on the journalists committee with the Pentagon. "They were silly and unworkable, the were at odds with our way of covering news in this country, and they were at odds with the spirit of negotiation between the press and the Pentagon over the last seven years since the media were excluded by any junior officer on the ground."

If American journalists succeed in forcing the Pentagon to accept less restrictive rules than the British, or if other European journalists enjoy greater freedom, it is hard to see how their British counterparts will not press the MoD to follow suit.

The MoD says it has learned

from the Falklands — just as the Pentagon swears it won't make the same mistakes as Grenada or Panama where the media were only allowed in after it was all over. But the scope for conflict will inevitably grow once hostilities start and journalists try to tell the full story. — The Guardian.

## Things will not be easy

By Annika Savill

SINCE this unprecedented "deadline" is increasingly becoming the most ubiquitous topic of our lives, it is worth looking back on where it came from in the first place. In the history of modern diplomacy, Western powers haven't much liked deadlines; for one thing, it might feel forced to act when they have passed.

It makes sense, therefore, that this novel concept in U.N. diplomacy came from the Russians. The motivation was the respite of a period of goodwill; and given the need to hold the coalition against Saddam together, the Western allies were talked into it. But that was in the days of superpower harmony, which began to crumble in earnest yesterday when Washington issued its first broadside since the beginning of the Gulf crisis against Moscow's domestic crackdown.

In the negotiations leading up to the 29 November resolution authorising "all necessary means" against Iraq, the Gorbachev-Shevardnadze team, then still in full swing, was willing to endorse the Western view that force might have to be used in the Gulf under a U.N. blessing; the U.S. and Britain wanted the resolution to sanction the use of force at any time. But they also understood full well that the Russians had to accommodate domestic pressure to give nonviolent means a chance. Mr. Shevardnadze came up with an inspired compromise: a "period of goodwill" before the threat of force became operational.

The very figure of "45 days" between the passing of the resolution and the 15 January deadline was in itself symbolic of one superpower accommodating the needs of the other. Initially, the Russians wanted the goodwill period to run for about 60 days; the U.S. and Britain, having agreed in principle to

the concept, wanted to give it only 30 days. It was an exercise of moving simplicity: the two sides agreed to split the difference.

Things will not be so easy from now on. Mr. Shevardnadze, Washington's best Soviet ally in foreign policy, will not stay in his post for much longer; and Soviet diplomats predict an imminent rift in Moscow in the resolve against Saddam and the support of America's leadership. There is a powerful conservative Soviet camp that favours a compromise with Saddam that might let him stay where he is forever and reward him in the bargain; if he only announces his intention to withdraw, negotiations on everything will become possible: linkage; an Iraqi role in future security structures; you name it. If it sounds familiar, recall the Mitterrand peace plan as outlined to the U.N. General Assembly on 24 September.

It so happens that this school of thinking is now spearheaded by Yevgeni Primakov, Gorbachev's former envoy in the Gulf crisis. Mr. Primakov is also the Soviet justly leader's personal choice, after Eduard Shevardnadze, for the post of foreign minister. The President, Soviet diplomats say, doesn't know who else to turn to: Mr. Primakov has accompanied Mr. Shevardnadze on many foreign missions in the past.

If the conservative in Moscow are strengthened further, it will hasten Mr. Shevardnadze's departure, and the

problem of an unpredictable Soviet Union weakening the coalition against Saddam becomes reality that much sooner. Furthermore, the harsh language from the White House yesterday telling Moscow to "cease attempts at intimidation" in the Baltic republics risks enticing the Soviet hardliners further: which will mean the risk of further crackdowns and more Cold Warspeak, and the vicious circle has begun. Yet Washington could not really do otherwise than to criticise the crackdown in the Baltics: it had already warned Mr. Gorbachev privately that although it would do its utmost to back him, it could not cope with too many dead Lithuanians.

There is a tacit Soviet agreement that Mr. Shevardnadze will not be replaced until the U.S.-Soviet summit originally planned for 14-15 February: the Americans, understandably, hinted on Monday it might be postponed, claiming diplomatically this was to allow time to finalise an arms reduction agreement. Yesterday the Soviet presidential spokesman insisted, on Moscow's behalf: "We have no reason to put back the summit and we hope on the contrary that it will go ahead as planned." The U.S. presidential spokesman, for his part, said he did not believe the U.S. criticism would undermine Soviet support in the Gulf. But they both would say that, wouldn't they. (The Independent)

WASHINGTON — Saddam Hussein understands what's at stake in a Gulf showdown, say Arab and U.S. experts who know him. It's President George Bush, they say, who doesn't understand Saddam.

Saddam would rather suffer war than be seen as caving in to an administration he feels has done its best to humiliate him, these experts say.

Marshall Wiley, a former U.S. envoy to Baghdad, said that by personalising the dispute with Iraq — comparing Saddam to Adolf Hitler, threatening him with a war crimes trial, implying he is a liar — Bush hardened Saddam's resolve to remain in Kuwait.

Wiley, one of the few Americans to meet Saddam, headed a business group with ties to Iraq after his government service. He said he had not been consulted by the Bush administration since the crisis began.

Clovis Maksoud, the long-time ambassador of the Arab League to Washington, said Saddam "seeks respect and recognition more than approval or acceptance. ... It's ingrained in the Arab psyche."

"Any language (Bush) suggests that implies humiliation for President Saddam Hussein is a prescription for intransigence," said Maksoud.

Saddam, Arab experts say, would be much more likely to accept peace proposals from a country such as Algeria than from the United States or its Western allies. The West, they say, represents the wealth and

## Respect is the key

By Ruth Sinai  
The Associated Press



power resented by Third World leaders still smarting from decades of colonial rule.

Saddam has shown himself capable of being flexible.

Last September, in an effort to defuse potential danger from Tehran, he returned 1,800 square kilometres of territory captured in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war that resulted in 1 million casualties.

But Saddam has shown flexibility only when he felt on an equal footing with his adversary.

A rare glimpse of the Iraqi leader's sensitivities was offered Wednesday by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who told reporters in Geneva why he told reporters to accept a letter from Bush to Saddam.

"The language of that letter was contrary to the traditions of correspondence between heads of state," Aziz said. "If he really intends to make peace ... he should use polite language."

Bush denied the letter was rude, describing it as a "direct" effort to make certain Saddam understood the stakes and the U.S. resolve to use force to oust him from Kuwait.

Others familiar with the Arab World note that the manner and tone in which people address each other is sometimes just as important as what they say. The Arab language is full of hyperbole and flattery which reflect those norms.

**Badran**

(Continued from page 1)

assurances that Israel would not attack Jordan in case of a war in the Gulf.

"We have received assurances that Jordan would not be attacked in the event of an Iraqi retaliation," he said.

Asked whether there were direct Israeli assurances that Israel would not intervene in a military confrontation, Mr. Badran said: "We did not receive assurances from the Americans but from other parties... that Israel was asked to refrain from any involvement and from taking any military action."

He did not elaborate but said that the U.S. would risk the collapse of the alliance if Israel attacked Jordan.

"The U.S. will lose the initiative and would embarrass Egypt and the other Arab countries (the U.S. allies). Therefore it has to consider the repercussions of an Israeli involvement on (Arab) public opinion as the people will pressure their governments to move against Israel," he said.

He predicted that an Israeli attack against Jordan would shift the attention from the Gulf crisis which would then be pushed to the backburner.

A well-placed Jordanian source said that an Israeli attack against Jordan would be viewed as a dangerous sign reflecting a negative American attitude towards the country.

"If the U.S. will allow such an attack it will reflect an American stand towards Jordan," he said.

Mr. Badran stressed that Jordan would not be party to a military conflict in the Gulf but would fight if it had to defend its sovereignty and territory.

"Jordan is not a party to the military conflict... therefore any Jordanian involvement will only be in defence of its sovereignty and territory," he said.

"Jordan will then defend itself with all its capabilities and will seek the military aid of all the Arab countries against an Israeli intervention," he vowed.

Reports from Tel Aviv indicate that Israeli leaders are divided on whether Israel should be involved in the conflict or not. For while some Israeli analysts and officials believe that Israel should take part to defend its interests and role in the Arab region others warn against the repercussions of its involvement on the U.S. alliance against Baghdad.

Some Arab and Western analysts believe that Israel is basically concerned about maintaining its role as the U.S. strategic ally in the region.

"The Gulf crisis has proved that Israel could not do much to defend the U.S. interests," said one Arab analyst. Pro-Israeli analysts, however, argue that Israel is the "main strategic asset to the U.S. and the least expensive". This has been the gist of a half-page advertisement by pro-Israeli lobbyists which appeared in a recent issue of the Washington-based U.S. News and World Report.

Some Jordanian analysts and officials say that Israel might seize the opportunity to assert its role through a direct involvement in the conflict from the outset by either attacking Jordan or striking against major Iraqi military strategic sites to help the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

Mr. Badran implied that although he believed that an

Israeli involvement would backfire against the American interest in maintaining the alliance against Baghdad, Jordan had to be alert to all possibilities. But he denied that there were recent Jordanian manoeuvres on the border.

"There were no manoeuvres at the border, although there have been reinforcements of our defensive capabilities," he said.

Mr. Badran warned that a military conflict in the Gulf would result in an international human catastrophe on the political, economic and ecological level.

"The battlefield of the war will be the oilfields, the ports and transportation means which channel oil to the rest of the world... a war will stop the flow of oil for at least, according to estimates, 15 years," he said.

He repeated his warnings that a military confrontation in the Gulf will undermine many of the Arab regimes in a clear allusion to the U.S. allies in the Arab World.

"In the case of war many of the Arab regimes will not be able to stand in the face of their peoples. There will be radical changes in these regimes and the U.S. will lose its allies," he said.

Mr. Badran, however, expressed the view that a peaceful solution was still possible even though the logic of war seems to be prevailing over the logic of peace.

"It is in the U.S.'s hands either to lead the world towards peace or to lead the world towards war," he said.

**Border**

(Continued from page 1)

been in vain.

Many countries and the United Nations have said they appreciated Jordan's handling of the evacuation but no money had been forthcoming. The U.N. issued a fresh appeal late Wednesday for funds to support the evacuation process, but it was not immediately clear whether the funds, if collected, would be used to reimburse Jordan.

Jordan has received assistance in kind such as food, blankets, tents, medicine etc. from the international community but little cash to compensate for the amount it spent on extending transport, health and other facilities to the evacuees.

Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gajendra Singh said he had information that about 40 Indian nationals remained stranded in the no-man's-land after the closure of the border.

Pacifico Castro, ambassador of the Philippines, said he was informed that 34 of his countrymen were also in the area.

Both ambassadors and Pakistani and Bangladeshi sources noted that the bulk of the Asian community had left the potential war theatre by end of November and that only a trickle of Asians had been coming through in the past weeks.

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, chief of mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said he had no information from the Jordanian authorities or anyone else that evacuees of any significant number were stranded in the no-man's-land.

According to Mr. Maroofi and other officials, about 3,000 evacuees remained in Jordan as of Friday. The included 1,781 Vietnamese, 1,179 Sudanese and about 80 Asian nationals (Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Filipinos).

Some of them were scheduled to fly out Friday and Saturday while others were taking the ferry across the Gulf of Aqaba to Egypt.

In addition, about 450 Somali nationals stranded here and seeking help from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) remained at the Azraq transit camp and apartments in Amman.

The Somalis are not classified as "evacuees" since they are arguing that they belong to a clan rival to that of President Siad Barre and could not return home because persecution by the regime awaited them. However, some of them are now hopeful that they would be able to return home in the event that the Siad Barre regime is toppled and the rebel United Somali Congress takes power.

A senior official indicated that Jordan might be willing to allow in a few number of those stranded at the border post if their governments undertook that they would not remain in Jordan for more than 24 hours. This is one of the key themes for Saturday's meeting, diplomats said.

**RJ charters**

(Continued from page 1)

covers five Amman-Hanoi flights starting Jan. 14 after one more Egyptian plane flies home about 200 Vietnamese on Saturday. Maroof said adding that 1,781 Vietnamese nationals remained in Jordan Friday.

When the Amman-Hanoi flights are completed, the number of Vietnamese evacuated through Jordan since Jan. 2 would have reached 5,104.

RJ officials declined to speculate on the motives behind the Saudi refusal to allow RJ planes under charter to use Saudi territory. But industry sources interpreted it as another form of pressure against Jordan aimed at denying the national carrier revenues.

"It appears that the Saudis also wanted Egypt to get the business," said one source.

RJ officials said regular RJ flights to and from Gulf and Far East destinations flying over Saudi Arabia were not affected.

Senior officials of the carrier have said that the airline had drawn up contingency plans to maintain its operations even if Saudi Arabia were to close its airspace for all commercial traffic in the event of war in the region.

According to reliable civil aviation sources, Saudi Arabia is planning to impose a partial closure of its territory for commercial air traffic Saturday, 48 hours ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. to relinquish Iraq or face war.

Ortega is expected to return to Amman from Baghdad on Sunday.

Asked where he would be on Jan. 15, the deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to leave Kuwait, Ortega said: "Wherever I am required I will be. If it is necessary to be in Baghdad, then I shall be there on Jan. 15."

Ortega is expected to return to Amman from Baghdad on Sunday.

from flying in Gulf skies and a contingency air corridor over Cyprus, Cairo, and Medina to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. This corridor would be used to evacuate civilians or casualties or to ferry medicine and food to the area, according to a spokesman for Cyprus Airways.

Dozens of airlines have announced suspension of flights to the Middle East following a dramatic rise in "war-risk" insurance. Diplomatic sources and airline officials say the insurance would go up further in the next few days and this could also result in very high costs for emergency evacuation flights from the region if war breaks out.

**Ortega**

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Tareq Aziz last week the general atmosphere in the U.S. had tilted to a "51 per cent in favour of the war option and 49 per cent in favour of the peace option."

"The confirmation of elements of war are quicker than those of peace," he said.

Ortega reaffirmed his position that he believed the Iraqi president was and is in favour of a peaceful settlement.

"President Hussein has said time and again that he is in favour of peace and that was made clear to me during my two earlier visits to Baghdad," Ortega said. He added though if the choice boiled down to two alternatives, "surrendering or confronting United States aggression," then "I believe that he (Saddam Hussein) is ready to fight to defend himself."

"I think Saddam Hussein is a victim of a gut reaction from the American president," Ortega said in response to a question of whether the Iraqi president was "mad" as President Bush had often put it. "Until not long ago the same characterisation was placed on Syria, its leader and government, and not on Iraq. Now like magic the roles have changed. The truth is Saddam Hussein, whom I have known since '79, is a very serene, firm and well centred leader," Ortega said.

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Ortega is expected to return to Amman from Baghdad on Sunday.

After his speech to the conference Saddam stayed to shake hands and chat for an hour.

**Saddam**

(Continued from page 1)

Saddam said he would use all weapons at his disposal in the event of war, reiterating his threat to use arsenals like chemical gas.

"All the technological advancement will be tested on the battlefield," he said. "They will see how their weapons will be shot down if when they come within a range of 5,10, 20 or 30 kilometres."

Added Saddam: "They will see how the Iraqis, men, youngsters, and women will fight them should they attempt to land anywhere in Iraq."

"They think that the Iraqi command has weak nerves and that the Iraqis will be shaken. We are a people who have eight years of experience in war and combat."

"The Americans will come here to perform acrobatics like Rambo movies. But they will find here real people to fight them," he said.

"This is a showdown between the infidel and believers, between good and evil," he told the conference.

"Victory is close and Palestine will return to its people with the help of God Almighty," he said.

Saddam said the U.S.-led forces had the advantage of sophisticated weapons but would be vanquished by Islamic fervour.

"We fight for the sake of dignity. Our paradise is the promised one for believers," he told the conference of 3,000 Muslims, including some from the United States and Europe as well as Islamic countries.

"The infidel (Western forces) seek the earthly pleasures. You think the infidel will be able to fight with spirit? This will never happen," he said.

"All our youth, our students and our farmers are armed and will fight the jihad. This is not a showdown over land or territories. This is a showdown between the infidel and believers, between good and evil."

"Clad in army fatigues and black beret, Saddam said Iraq had invaded Kuwait to "liberate it from corruption and traitors."

He said Iraq's invasion had launched a crusade to root out godlessness among the Arabs, an apparent reference to Saudi Arabia, which hosts the multinational force ranged against Baghdad.

"Since corruption has found its way among Arabs and made some of them weak to the point of servitude to infidels, it is necessary to purify our family from within," he said.

"Measures (the Western buildup in the Gulf) taken after Aug. 2 encourage the Muslim faithful to play a leading role to liberate Palestine and Al Quds," he said.

A Jordanian delegate quoted Saddam as telling the Muslim scholars that Baghdad was insisting on international legitimacy, linking an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait to a pledge of statehood for Palestinians.

The Jordanian delegate, who asked not to be named, said Saddam appeared "relaxed, in a genial frame of mind," seemingly unperturbed by the looming threat of war.

Iraqi media made no comment about the widely-supported trip by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is due to arrive in Baghdad on Saturday.

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**Saudis**

(Continued from page 1)

for more Saudi help to finance the U.S.-led coalition.

"The kingdom has been very generous during 1990," Baker said. "At the same that we had those discussions, we said we would have discussions regarding 1991 if the crisis continued into 1991 and we have those discussions and I am very satisfied with those discussions."

Saudi oil profits have soared since Iraq invaded Kuwait and the U.N. council imposed a worldwide boycott on Iraqi and Kuwait oil in an attempt to force Iraq out.

Baker flew to the United Arab Emirates for a meeting with President Zayed Sultan Ben Nahyan and Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Ali Nuaimi.

The King's meeting with the U.N. chief attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker,

**U.N. chief**

(Continued from page 1)

Although Perez de Cuellar said he would remain open for in-depth political discussions with the Iraqi leader "if the president agrees to raise all points," he refused to confirm the points.

British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg said in Geneva the EC broadly accepted the main points but he said withdrawal of foreign troops had not been raised, "at least not in that way."

Perez de Cuellar, answering a direct question in Amman, however, raised the possibility of a peacekeeping force, but said the issue was something that should be discussed among the parties involved and the members of the Security Council.

The secretary-general said he will "listen to the distinguished president of Iraq and discuss the ways and means of perhaps finding a peaceful way out of the present situation."

According to highly informed U.N. sources, President George Bush has told Perez de Cuellar that the U.S., which leads the anti-Iraq coalition in the Gulf, feels it was free to exercise the war option "one second after the midnight of Jan. 15."

The secretary-general is genuinely concerned by the American interpretation of the (Security Council) resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq," said the source.

"And that is the main reason he has rushed to the region, although belatedly, to avert war."

Another diplomatic source said Bush had also informed French President Francois Mitterrand of the U.S. interpretation of the Jan. 15 deadline. "Mitterrand believes that Bush will strike immediately after the expiry of the deadline, and this is contrary to earlier American assurances that the deadline was only aimed at pressing Iraq," the Western diplomat told the Jordan Times.

The French News Agency (AFP) reported from Amman that Perez de Cuellar was also carrying a proposal for Iraq to advance the U.S.-Iraqi contacts that was established with Wednesday's meeting in Geneva between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The talks failed to produce a breakthrough but Jordanian officials say that this does not mean war is imminent.

"Jordan believes that there is a need to inject a third party into the equation as Perez de Cuellar, King Hussein, the EC, or Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to arrange another meeting and offer suggestions to both sides towards achieving peace in the region," AFP quoted Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri as saying.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine said in an interview with German television that Jordan still saw chance to resolve the Gulf crisis through peaceful means.

Reaffirming that Jordan did not see the Aziz-Baker encounter in Geneva as a total failure, Izzeddine told the ARD television and radio network that "we would like to think that this meeting is the beginning and not the end of the process... there are still moves to be undertaken by several parties towards peace in the region."

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"We are still encouraged that the secretary-general of the U.N. is going to visit Baghdad," he said.

"We are still encouraged that the Europeans are interested, and they might move in one way or another... we also expect Arab moves in the coming few days," he added.

Asked whether President Saddam would reciprocate with "the big step" (withdrawal from Kuwait) if the Americans made a small step towards resolving the Palestinian problem, the minister said: "If a clear message would be made, if a clear message would be made obvious that the world community will handle the Palestinian question in the same manner and the same, let us say, ability that the Gulf crisis was handled, I think that could be the beginning of a breakthrough."

The King's meeting with the U.N. chief attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker,

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## Novotna ousts Fernandez in New South Wales Open

SYDNEY (AP) — Czechoslovakia's Jana Novotna ousted top-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez 7-5, 6-3 Friday to advance to the semi-finals of the \$425,000 New South Wales Open Tennis Tournament.

Fernandez, the 19-year-old American who was runner-up in last year's Australian Open, committed the last two of her 36 unforced errors in the sixth-seeded Novotna broke her service for the fifth time to take the match.

Novotna, 22, will face seventh-seeded Barbara Paulus of Austria in Saturday's semi-finals. Paulus knocked off no. 3 Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere of Switzerland 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

The other women's semi-final will pit fourth-seeded Zina Garrison of the United States against no. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain. Garrison defeated defending champion Natalia Zereva of the Soviet Union, the no. 5 seed, 6-4, 6-3. Sanchez Vicario downed

unseeded Australian Nicole Provis 7-5, 6-2.

Earlier in the day, Provis ousted no. 8 Amy Frazier of the United States, 7-5, 6-4 in the completion of a match suspended by rain Thursday.

No. 3 Guy Forget of France, who beat compatriot Fabrice Santoro 6-2, 6-1 Friday, is the only seed remaining in the men's draw.

In the semi-finals Saturday, he will

face American Derrick Rostagno,

who defeated Argentina's Martin 6-1, 6-3.

In the other semifinal, Jonas Gustafsson of Sweden will meet Germany's Michael Stich. Gustafsson ousted wild-card entry Darren Cahill of Australia 7-5, 6-4, while Stich swept by Australian qualifier Johan Anderson 6-3, 6-0.

Both finals will be played Sunday.

Fernandez never looked comfortable on the White City Centre court, and was consistently in

trouble. Even when Novotna faltered, the tall, lanky American couldn't win the big points.

Novotna jumped to a 4-0 lead in the first set before Fernandez got untracked to tie the score at 5-5. But the Czech broke for the third time at love, then held her own serve to take the set in 54 minutes. She got the only breaks of the second set in the third and ninth games.

Fernandez offered no excuses for the loss, although she would have linked a few more matches to tune her game before next week's Australian Open starts in Melbourne. But she also said she was fitter and stronger than a year ago.

"I am definitely playing better than last year and I am hoping to do well next week," Fernandez said.

Asked about the vulnerability of world no. 1 Steffi Graf, Fernandez said: "There is more a feeling that anyone can win now. Anyone in the top 10, 15 can be there."

## Vatanen still leads desert race

AGADEZ, Niger (AP) — Three-time winner Ari Vatanen of Finland has stretched his lead in the Paris-Dakar Rally over rival Jacky Ickx of Belgium to 37 minutes, 54 seconds in penalty time.

Both men drive for Citroen. Frenchman Jean-Pierre Fontenay, driving a Mitsubishi, lags behind in third position, nearly two hours behind Vatanen.

Swede Kenneth Eriksson, also in a Mitsubishi, won Thursday's 516-kilometres stage from Agadez to Tillia, Niger, only 17 seconds in penalty time ahead of teammate Pierre Larigaud of France.

Another Frenchman, Hubert Auriol, driving a Lada, finished the stage third at 4 minutes, 31 seconds behind Eriksson.

In the motorcycle division, Stephane Peterhansel of France increased his advantage in the overall standings to nearly 35 minutes over France's Thierry Magnaldi. Both men ride Yamahas.

## American breaks world 200m swimming record

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Mike Barrowman paid his debt for his Olympic disappointment with a world-record performance to win the men's 200-metre breaststroke at the World Swimming Championships Friday.

Bulked up on a fast-food lunch, the American cut .30 seconds off his own world mark, leading the fastest ever assembled with a time of 2 minutes, 11.23 seconds.

It turned out to be the fastest overall performance in the event. The eighth-place finisher, 17-year-old Hiroshi Enjiedi of Japan, finished in 2:15.28.

Barrowman finished fourth in the 1988 Olympics in a race he had been heavily favoured to win.

"I've got a debt from Seoul to settle with three others, because they beat me good," Barrowman said before the competition started. "This is the best field in the whole championships. My one advantage is that these people beat me badly when it counted."

It counted Friday night, too, and this time Barrowman was the one to make the others pay up.

He led from start to finish, hitting the first 100 turn in 1:03.19 — .68 seconds ahead of Norbert Rozsa, who earlier in the week set the world record in the 100 breaststroke. Rozsa, from Hungary, pulled close over the final half never had enough to catch Barrowman.

Rozsa finished second in 2:12.08, with former world record-holder Nick Gilligham of Britain third in 2:13.93 and Sergio Lopez sixth in 2:14.21. Szabo, Gilligham and Lopez beat Barrowman in Seoul.

"I am so happy it is over with,"

Barrowman said. "I hurt and it was all willpower. I told everybody when I came in here, 'I don't care if I swim 2:35, as long as I win this race, and that's going to be hard enough.' So I was happy to come in first."

The new world champion, who conned a bus driver into driving him to a nearby McDonald's for a lunch of "a Big Mac, a quarter-pounder, all that kind of stuff," said that his swim had been all he had.

"It was all willpower," he said.

The U.S. men's 400 freestyle relay team also won in meet-record time. The quartet of Tom Jager, Brent Lang, Doug Gjertsen and Matt Biondi finished in 3:17.15, 2.52 seconds faster than the old meet mark set by the United States in 1986.

Jörg Hoffmann got Germany's first individual gold medal when he won the 400 freestyle in a meet-record 3:48.04. Top-ranked Arun Wojdat of Poland, the leading qualifier, finished third.

China, which has been dis-

appointing up until now, finished

1-2 in the women's 100 butterfly,

a very tight race with just .28

seconds separating the first four

finishers. Wian Homing, the 1986

Asian Games champion, beat

teammate Wang Xiaohong by .13

seconds, at 59.68. Crissy Ahmann-

Leighton of the United States was

third at 59.96.

Linley Frame gave Australia its

second swimming gold medal

when she won the women's 100

breaststroke in 1:08.81. Elena

Volkova, who caught frame to win

the 200 breaststroke, was third in

1:09.66.

Gao Min of China became the

first winner of two individual gold

medals at the championships when

she took the women's 3-metre

springboard diving by less than 15

points over Irina Lashko of the

Soviet Union.

"I'm very excited," said Gao,

the 1-metre springboard winner

who has been bothered by shoul-

der injuries. "It's been a very

difficult championships for me,

but I was able to get the medals

because of the help of my doctors

and coaches."

Gao has not lost since teammate

Li Chen beat her in the pre-Olympic

meet in the summer of 1988.

China won all three women's

diving events, with Fun Mingxia

taking the platform.

Janet Evans also was on course

for her second gold medal. The

American world record-holder

and Olympic qualified first for the

women's 800 freestyle at 8:33.19,

ahead of Australian rival Julie

McDonald. The final of the 800,

the longest women's pool race, is

set for Saturday.

Swimming resumed after a rest

day with the United States ahead

in the medal standings and in

strong position to sweep the men's

and women's team titles for the

first since 1978.

The women's race has been left

wide-open with the help of sub-

par performances by the highly

touted Chinese team. That trend

accelerated in the heats.

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1991

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 12, 1991  
By Thomas S. Pieroni, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may have every impulsion to speak out of turn but if you do you will hurt the feelings of those closest to you and with whom you want to maintain a deep tie. Control that errant urge.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Your attention can never be wisely

focused upon a good friend who

has the know-how to help you with

some social or personal matter

very important.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Private discussions you have with

an unpredictable acting official or

executive and intimate talk you

have with a confident bring new

good will.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You are able to use this day to com-

municate with whomever you wish to

be allied in the days ahead and

can get their cooperation easily.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to

July 21) This is the time for you to

get together in close conference

with a very active individual who is

highly placed and get his backing.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

You now find that most everyone is

willing to go along with some new

idea with which you have recently

become inspired but you get help

of a friend.

PISCES: (February 20 to March

20) You want more income and

revenue but you'd best listen to

what your family or a close attach-

ment has to suggest if you want the

best results.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to

January 20) This is the time for you

to make sure you have everything

as your family wishes and can use

this day to build up a new well-

being for you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to Febr

uary 19) You now can understand

very well what it means to gain the

good will of others by going to see

or phoning or communicating with

them to show you do care.

PIRATES: (February 20 to March

20) You want more income and

revenue but you'd best listen to

what your family or a close attach-

ment has to suggest if you want the

best results.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT SOMETIMES BREAKS UP AT

# Economy

## Gorbachev orders food for the state, leftovers for market

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev Thursday ordered farmers to give priority to the government when it comes to selling their produce.

"Republics are to introduce state orders or other forms of mandatory deliveries of farm output for 1991," said a presidential decree, published by the official TASS news agency.

"After mandatory deliveries are made, remaining production can be sold freely on the consumer market by collective and state farms and other agricultural producers," it said.

Entitled "On urgent measures to improve food supplies in 1991," the decree appeared to reinforce the existing role of central planners in food distribution and deal a blow to free market forces in agriculture.

It follows a decree last week allowing the private sector to take over land from inefficient state and collective farms to help boost output. No provision was made for private sector to take over land from inefficient forces in agriculture.

It follows a decree last week allowing the private sector to take over land from inefficient state and collective farms to help boost output. No provisions were made for private ownership of land, which is to be decided by referendum.

The latest decree said state orders would affect all farmers and prices would be set by the government.

It was aimed at avoiding any repetition of problems encountered last year, when many farmers defied state purchase orders, preferring to sell their produce on private markets or exchange it for scarce consumer

goods.

This led to acute shortages of food and rationing in many cities and prompted the government to appeal for foreign aid to get through the harsh Soviet winter.

Many Western countries responded by sending food parcels and offering billions of dollars worth of credits.

Gorbachev said a special hard currency committee would decide before February how much would be spent on food and raw materials from abroad in the coming year.

In a possible reference to the introduction of rationing across the Soviet Union, he ordered republican and local authorities "to provide guaranteed sales to each citizen of basic foodstuffs through the retail trade network."

Meanwhile, Georgy Arbatov, once a key Kremlin figure and aide to Gorbachev, said Thursday the Soviet military-industrial complex was fighting reform and putting the perestroika process in dire danger.

"Democratisation, humane socialism, and the well-being of the people are absolutely incompatible with militarism," said the academician, often bitterly attacked by the Soviet military.

He said representatives of the military and the arms industry, who are strongly represented in the parliament and retain powerful positions in the government and Communist Party, had launched a frontal attack on reform.

The government, led by ailing Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, who also is closely linked to the arms industry, had proposed assigning 98.5 billion roubles for military purposes, a huge 37.5 per cent of total expenditure.

## IMF forecasts small, shallow U.S. recession

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) believes the recession in the United States will be brief and will not be very deep, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said Thursday.

He said the continued economic vitality in Germany and Japan was buttressing the global economy and helping prevent it from falling into recession.

"It looks as though the present decline in the U.S. will be short and relatively shallow," Camdessus told reporters at the National Press Club in Washington.

He declined to say what the economic impact of a shooting war in the Middle East would be, explaining that financial problems from such a clash would be small when compared with the total in

human suffering.

But he did say he believed the world economy would adjust to oil prices if they were to remain at around \$26 a barrel over a long period. This is about 50 per cent higher than the level prior to the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Camdessus lauded the effort of the U.S. central bank in attempting to allow a relaxation of credit to spur economic activity without turning its back on inflation.

"I am impressed also by how careful the Federal Reserve has been in allowing some easing of credit to support the economy but in a way that seeks to safeguard against inflation," he said.

Camdessus outlined a litany of problems and challenges facing economic policymakers in the

period ahead.

He said the IMF expected to lend \$5 billion or more to the emerging economies of eastern Europe this year, disclosing that financial packages are being readied for Romania and Bulgaria.

In addition, he said it was his understanding that Albania would soon seek to join its eastern European neighbours in the IMF.

He said the IMF backed a U.S. plan that would give the Soviet Union a special relationship with the agency, allowing it to provide technical assistance but not funds.

He also said the Latin American debt crisis, while still a serious problem, had become manageable and was no longer a threat to the global economy.

## Italian trade gap remains about \$15b

ROME (R) — Italy's 1990 trade deficit will be around 17 trillion lire (\$15 billion), exceeding the government's target by about 20 per cent largely because of dearer imported oil, the foreign trade ministry said Tuesday.

Its forecast for the final 1990 figure would be little changed from 1989's 16.9 trillion lire (\$15 billion) but compares with a 14.25 trillion (\$12.4 billion) deficit, the government predicted earlier last year.

Italy, which depends on oil imports for 50 per cent of its energy requirements, paid an average \$35 a barrel for oil in November, 90 per cent more than in the same month of 1989.

The price paid in November compared with an average \$21 a barrel before Aug. 2.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, January 10, 1991  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	665.0	669.0
Pound Sterling	1270.5	1278.1
Deutschmark	437.0	439.6
Swiss franc	519.4	522.5
French franc	129.8	130.6
Japanese yen (for 100)	47.4	49.4
Dutch guilder	267.4	270.4
Italian lira (for 100)	116.8	117.4
Belgian franc (for 10)	210.3	211.6

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1,9020/30	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1,1525/35	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1,3350/60	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	1,7320/30	French francs	Italian lire
	1,2890/2900	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	31,58/63	Danish crowns	Norwegian crowns
	5,2100/50	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
	1156/1157		
	134,25/35		
	5,7040/90		
	6,0070/0120		
	5,9100/50		
One ounce of gold	391.50/392.00		

## Bonn agrees to raise revenues and savings

BONN (Agencies) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his coalition partners agreed Thursday to cut public spending and increase unemployment insurance contributions in 1991 to help pay for German unification.

Volker Rühe, general secretary of Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), said the three coalition parties had agreed a 35-billion-mark (\$23 billion) package to help curb soaring budget deficits caused by unification.

Intensive negotiations among the coalition partners this weekend will aim to resolve the main sticking-point — a proposal by the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) to make former East Germany a special low-tax area to encourage investment.

They also agreed that the amount paid into state coffers by the telecommunications authority should be increased by two billion marks (\$1.3 billion) per year, making a rise in telephone charges virtually inevitable.

Meanwhile, Germany's foreign trade surplus shrank precipitously in November, due to a big increase in the imports and flat exports, the Federal Statistics Office reported Thursday.

In 1989, West Germany led the world with a \$76 billion trade surplus, but if trade in 1991 follows the direction of the figures reported Thursday, newly united Germany might have less than half its 1989 surplus.

The merchandise trade surplus in November was 3.3 billion marks (\$2.2 billion), down from 8.1 billion marks (\$5.6 billion) in October.

## Thai rice exports fall

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand exported 3.5 tonnes of rice worth 27 billion baht (\$1.08 billion) in 1990, a steep drop from the previous year, an official of the foreign trade department has said.

Thailand had exported 5.4 million tonnes worth 40 billion baht (\$1.6 billion) in 1989, the official said.

Thailand's leading customers and their purchases in the first 10 months of 1990 were: Iran, 223,393 tonnes; Dubai, 210,873 tonnes; Malaysia, 205,461 tonnes; Hong Kong, 180,101 tonnes and Singapore, 169,025 tonnes.

Thailand was the world's leading rice exporter in 1990, followed by the United States, Vietnam, Pakistan, China, and Burma, said Lena Pongruksa, an official of the Department of Business Economics.

She said rice was Thailand's second biggest foreign exchange earner, after garments.

Lena said rice exports fell in 1990 because important customers such as China decreased purchases as their own production increased, and Thailand faced competition from new exporter Vietnam, she said.

Also, Thailand's rice production in the 1989-1990 growing season decreased by 900,000 tonnes from the previous season, she said.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Stocks closed higher on hopes Iraq will mount a new diplomatic initiative to end the Gulf crisis peacefully. The Nikkei index bounced back and forth throughout a busy session to close up 19.66 points at 23,241.02.

SYDNEY — The market bounced back from its losing streak, ending firmer after a "bullish" session on "Wall Street." The All Ordinaries closed 10.1 points higher at 1,243.8.

HONG KONG — Light buying of safe blue chip shares by institutions and bankers speculating on an 11th hour Gulf peace settlement pushed the Hang Seng index up 22.84 points to 3,068.37.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed generally higher in another day of quite trading as confusion over the situation in the Gulf continued to dampen activity. The Straits Times industrial index rose 9.05 points to 1,175.34.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange index rallied 25.78 points to 1,034.30 on buying by state-owned investment trusts but brokers said the market undercut was suspect.

FRANKFURT — News that Soviet troops had stormed Lithuania's defence headquarters wiped out an early surge. Gulf war fears heightened tension. The DAX index ended 1.14 points lower at 1,382.26.

ZURICH — Worries about Lithuania and the Gulf dampened sentiment. The all-share SMI index fell 3.8 points to 865.1.

PARIS — The CAC-40 index fell 12.15 points to 1,494.94 on Gulf worries.

LONDON — Share prices closed at the day's lows, down 2.6 to 2,106.1.

NEW YORK — Shares drifted with investors unwilling to carry position into a weekend overshadowed by Gulf war fears. At 1719 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were down 3.22 to 2,495.54.

## TO DAY AT

### Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155

Ahmad Zaki ... Ragha ... Sahar Rami  
In CAPORIA  
(Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

### Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

HER ALIBI

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

### Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238

Ahmad Zaki — Ragha  
In THE EMPEROR

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

### Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

ROBOCOP "2"

Show: 3:30, 6:45, 9:30, 10:30 p.m.

### Cinema NIJOUN Tel: 675571

WHITE GHOST

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

## Analysts see Swiss franc, dollar as refuge currencies from Gulf war insecurity

haven currency because it was seen as most likely to be affected by instability in the Soviet Union.

The Swiss franc rose on substantial capital flows into Swiss banks following the invasion of Kuwait, analysts said.

Many of them have put the figure at around \$5 to \$10 billion, although some say it could be even higher.

The franc, which opened at 1,3603/13 francs to the dollar on July 31, the last trading day before the invasion, has since mostly traded about eight cents firmer.

The analysts all said gold would not take its traditional role as the ultimate safe in times of instability.

Gold, which stood at \$375.25 per ounce on Aug. 1, before the Iraqi invasion, did not rise substantially after the failure of Wednesday's U.S.-Iraq talks, despite the widespread perception that the outcome made war more likely.

On Thursday the price stood at \$390.25 per ounce.

Eurofranc rates have been between 6 1/2 and nine per cent since mid-December.

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## Soviet paratroops storm key Lithuanian buildings in Vilnius

VILNIUS (R) — Soviet paratroops stormed key buildings in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius Friday following a stern warning by President Mikhail Gorbachev that the separatist republic had to submit to Moscow's authority.

Soviet paratroops occupied the headquarters of the Lithuanian State Defence Department and the republic's main press plant.

A Lithuanian parliamentary spokesman said paratroops in armoured vehicles arrived at the Defence Headquarters and fired at it, blowing out windows before entering the building.

Local radio said troops fired tear gas to evict staff but there were no reports of casualties.

Lithuanian radio announced that a column of tanks was advancing on the city's television tower. It called for all the republic's citizens to Vilnius to help.

"Attention, attention, we have just received information that a military column is moving in the direction of the television tower," an announcer sternly said.

Thousands of people joined ranks shoulder-to-shoulder around the tower and sang patriotic songs. One man defiantly waved a yellow, green and orange Lithuanian tricolour from a rooftop. Huge loudspeakers blared out news bulletins.

Air raid warning sirens wailed throughout the city for the first time since World War II.

Lithuania's ELTA news agency said at least six people had been injured in the fracas, some with gunshot wounds. One journalist said she had seen a man injured when a tank in a column moving through the city centre collided with a truck.

Outside the occupied press plant, young Lithuanians surrounded a Soviet tank, screaming at a young crew member in a scene reminiscent of the 1963 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Lithuania, like its sister Baltic republics Estonia and Latvia, last year declared its intention to restore its pre-war independence.

It agreed to hold talks with Kremlin leaders after a two-month Moscow-imposed economic embargo but negotiations have yet to get under way.

In Luxembourg, the European Community called on Moscow Friday to refrain from aggression in the breakaway Baltic republics.

"The Community and its member states are deeply concerned by the situation in the Baltic republics," the Community said in a statement issued Friday after Soviet troops stormed key buildings in Vilnius.

"They expect that the Soviet authorities, in conformity with their commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris, will refrain from any act of intimidation," it added.

A Luxembourg government spokesman described the statement, agreed by EC political directors Thursday, as a mild warning.

Denmark in particular had been pressing its partners to send a warning message to Moscow.

In London, Moscow's top diplomat was called into the Foreign Office Friday to hear a strong protest over the use of Soviet paratroops in Lithuania.

Soviet Charge d'Affaires Vladimir Ivanov was told Soviet troops should be removed from the streets of the Baltic republic's capital, Vilnius, and peaceful negotiations on Lithuania's democratic future should resume.

The Foreign Office said: "Our concern has been heightened by the news in the past few hours of increased pressure on the elected Lithuanian authorities and of reported action by Soviet troops in Vilnius."

NATO also expressed concern on Friday about the use of force in the Baltic states.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the British government could see no justification for the present action against Lithuania.

He said the repression of democracy in the Baltic states ran contrary to Soviet obligations under European Human Rights Accords agreed in Paris last December.

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## Ceasefire collapses in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Security forces backed by helicopters resumed military action against Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka Friday after a 10-day ceasefire collapsed, military sources and residents said.

Soldiers moved out from an army camp in northern Vavuva district at dawn and destroyed rebel bunkers while helicopters strafed guerrilla positions.

Three soldiers were wounded, the military sources said. Rebel casualties were not known.

The sources said it was the first reported clash since the government decided to resume offensive military operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

A seven-day suspension of operations by the security forces lapsed at midnight Thursday. The government suspended hos-

tailed women.

The Defence Ministry secretary, General Cyril Ranatunga, said there were 34 incidents of rebel violations. The Tigers used the ceasefire to build new bunkers and dig trenches near army camps and a naval base in the northeast, he said.

The government, while resuming military operations, called on the Tiger leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, to resume peace talks.

"Such talks should be preceded by a declaration against the possession and use of arms by any group or persons other than those authorised by law," the government said in a statement.

It said all political parties would be invited to participate in the talks. If the Tigers agreed to talk on these terms the security forces would suspend offensive operations, the statement said.

The rebels charged the army with 39 violations in the first seven days. They said soldiers had fired at Tiger positions, abducted Tamil civilians and

## Death toll in Greek student riots rises to four

ATHENES (R) — Firefighters searching a burnt-out department store in Athens found three more bodies, police said Friday, raising to four the number of people killed in riots between students and police.

The store was gutted by fire in clashes which erupted Thursday after a march by some 60,000 students, teachers and workers to protest against the death of a teacher during demonstrations Wednesday.

Lawson added "there is increased competition abroad."

He said official export credit agencies in Germany, Japan, France, Britain and other nations already provide financial backing to help their defence companies export.

They said protesters hurling petrol bombs started the blaze, but several eyewitnesses blamed police tear-gas canisters.

"Any attempt to narrow the Civic Forum could be very dangerous," Dienstbier warned in a televised debate Tuesday.

An unsuccessful transformation of Civic Forum into a political party could cast doubts over its legitimacy as the major player in Czechoslovak politics. That could further complicate the task of getting legal reforms and a new constitution through a parliament already bogged down in dozens of draft laws.

Klaus supporters, who formed a right-wing parliamentary group, see no danger of destabilisation.

Civic Forum deputies do not intend to break ranks in parliamentary voting, Daniel Kroupa, leader of Civic Forum's right-wing parliamentary faction, said this week.

"As far as I know, the atmosphere in the Civic Forum is clearly favouring ... transition to a political party," he added.

In December, regional managers voted 117 to 20 for Klaus' policy of forming a party with individual membership. Last weekend, he got the backing of Civic Forum regional congresses in Prague and Brno, the two largest Czech cities.

Klaus, a bespectacled 49-year-old, spares no criticism for those who seek a so-called "third way" in politics or economics, accusing intellectuals symbolised by Havel of unfocused thinking and over-reliance on the power of the state.

"Klaus simply does not like the idea of a civic initiative," said Stanislav Penc, a long-time

spokesman described the statement, agreed by EC political directors Thursday, as a mild warning.

Denmark in particular had been pressing its partners to send a warning message to Moscow.

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## Bush weighs arms aid to allies

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration is considering asking the U.S. Congress to approve a billion-dollar plan to back commercial arms sales to NATO and other military allies, U.S. officials have said.

The plan would be administered by the U.S. Export-Import Bank, which has in the past only backed non-military foreign sales.

Defence industry officials said the plan was widely backed by arms-makers, but there was disagreement over whether the bank or the Pentagon should be the controlling agency.

Arms-makers and the Pentagon see the plan as a way to retain the country's ability to make planes, ships, tanks and other weapons at a time of shrinking U.S. defence budgets.

The bank, with a budget now of about \$10 billion, is banned from supporting arms sales to developing nations and has on its own extended the ban to developed nations.

Bank Vice Chairman Eugene Lawson said bank policy now would be to back overseas commercial sales as a way to help hard-hit American arms firms as arms spending declines.

"We have made a determination that we can help in this transition from a cold war economy to a post-cold war economy," he said in a telephone interview.

Lawson added "there is increased competition abroad."

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## Solidarity veteran warns Walesa against 'criminal' power play

WARSAW (R) — A top Solidarity veteran warned President Lech Walesa Friday against building a "criminal" power monopoly in Poland as parliament debated approving the country's new government.

Bronislaw Geremek, once Walesa's close ally in the Solidarity movement that toppled communism, attacked his controversial plans to form a political council outside the framework of the constitution.

"Not so long ago the spokesman of the presidential office said there were proposals to take over power in the country by a presidential or political council," he said.

"I think he wasn't aware that such a statement amounts to reporting a crime, or at least a declaration of criminal intent," added Geremek, a leader of the Democratic Union Party which broke away from Solidarity's main parliamentary group last week.

Walesa says his council of about 200 members would be able to make "interventions" or "requests" to the president, parliament and prime minister, giving all political forces a say in Poland's reforms. It would not have executive powers.

Opponents accuse Walesa of trying to build a "super-government" to bypass the parliament.

The dispute has overshadowed the opening weeks of his presidency.

Two-thirds of parliament's



Lech Walesa

"I don't want to be a dictator, I don't want to grab power, I want to create conditions for different forces, so we can all push the Polish cart together," the president said this week.

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The dispute has overshadowed the opening weeks of his presidency.

Two-thirds of parliament's

lower house, the Sejm, are still former Communists and their allies, elected in partly-free elections in 1989. Most politicians say the Sejm is not representative and new elections should be held as soon as possible.

Walesa watched from his presidential lodge as parliament began what promised to be a drawn-out debate on the new cabinet of Solidarity economist Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, the man he nominated as prime minister last month.

Bielecki, a longtime union adviser and former underground activist, has named what he calls a "government of continuation and breakthrough" to build on the achievements of his Solidarity predecessor Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The retention as finance minister and vice-premier of Poland's State Bar missed the legislature's Jan. 1 deadline for submitting rules to the State Supreme Court for final approval.

The bar plans to take up the issue again on Jan. 26. Democratic assemblywoman Lucille Roybal-Allard sponsored 1989 legislation that required the bar to impose governing lawyer-client sex as long as two women in 1988 accused "palimony" lawyer Marvin Mitchelson of sexual assault. Prosecutors decided not to bring charges against Mitchelson, who denied the allegations, but a state crime victims' compensation board awarded the women \$56,000 for medical and psychiatric care.

resenting the six republics and Serbia's two provinces, nominally commands the armed forces.

It was not clear which groups it was threatening. Media reports have said Slovenia and Croatia have recently reinforced their defence militias.

Ethnic Serbs in Croatia have been in near-revolution against local authorities since August. They have raided police armories and organised roadblocks, at which one policeman was killed and at least five people were injured.

Slovenia and Croatia said they did not consider that the federal orders for disarming illegal groups applied to them.

"We will resist by all means at our disposal any meddling by the army in affairs within the legal jurisdiction of the (regional) Interior Ministry," said a statement by Croatia's Defence Council.

The presidency's order "might be misused to suspend and even topple legally elected governments in certain Yugoslav republics," it warned.

## COLUMN 8

### Attorneys fight ban on lawyer-client affairs

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Lawyers and lawmakers in California are hung up over proposed restrictions on sex between attorneys and clients. The rules governing sexual behavior of California's 128,000 lawyers would be the first of their kind in the United States, said Joanne Pitilla, an American Bar Association research attorney.

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